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Letter dated 30 May 2003 from the Permanent Representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the text of the joint declaration of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China of 27 May 2003, adopted during the State visit of the President of the People's Republic of China, Hu Jintao, to the Russian Federation from 26 to 28 May 2003 (see annex).

We would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were to be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

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Annex to the letter dated 30 May 2003 from the Permanent Representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Chinese and Russian]

Joint declaration of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, Moscow, 27 May 2003

At the invitation of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, the President of the People's Republic of China, Hu Jintao, paid a State visit to the Russian Federation from 26 to 28 May 2003.

The heads of State of the two countries had a substantive and in-depth discussion on the development of bilateral relations over the past decade and their present state and prospects, and agreed that no matter what changes take place in the world, the deepening of good-neighbourly relations, friendship, mutually advantageous cooperation, partnership and strategic interaction between Russia and China will remain a strategic priority in the foreign policies of the two countries. The parties are resolved to take over the baton from the previous generations and carry it into the future, and to exert joint efforts to discover new ways for the development of Russian-Chinese relations.

To this end, the heads of State of Russia and China state the following:

I

During the past decade, Russian-Chinese relations have gone from constructive partnership to partnership and strategic interaction along the historical path of relations between friendly States. The two countries have jointly worked out an optimal model of cooperation that has taken relations between the two countries on to the path of stable development. Political trust between the two countries is increasing, practical interaction is constantly expanding, and friendship and mutual understanding between the peoples of Russia and China are steadily becoming stronger. The development of Russian-Chinese relations has brought real benefits to both States and peoples and has become an example of relations between neighbouring countries and great Powers.

Russia and China intend to continue to strengthen their partnership and strategic interaction and jointly solve practical questions of bilateral ties in the national-security interests of both States, the prosperity of the Russian and Chinese people, and stability and calm in neighbouring regions.

The Treaty of Good-Neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China of 16 July 2001 is a concentrated reflection of a number of achievements in the development of bilateral relations in recent years and has laid a solid legal groundwork for the steady and sustainable development of relations between the two countries in the new century. The treaty has become an inalienable part of the legal systems of the two countries.

The parties believe that both countries have all the necessary conditions to ensure the implementation of the treaty. The parties state their determination to adhere steadfastly to the policy and principles set forth in the treaty, continue the

implementation of all cooperation agreements concluded between the parties, constantly supplement the partnership and strategic interaction between the two countries with new substance, find new ways to encourage steady movement forward in bilateral relations, and exert efforts to maintain the high dynamics of Russian-Chinese relations at all times.

II

Top-level contacts between Russia and China and bilateral intergovernmental and inter-agency commissions on cooperation are important mechanisms that secure the development of strategic interaction between the parties in all areas and serve as an effective conduit for the operational exchange of views and coordination of positions on bilateral issues and topical international problems. The parties stress that the mechanism of regular meetings between the heads of Government of the two States is of great importance and appreciate its contribution to the long-term development of trade and economic cooperation between Russia and China. The parties will strengthen existing structures while expanding other channels for exchanges and consultations at all levels and in all spheres. To this end, the parties will continue to discuss ways to implement the agreement on the creation of a Russian-Chinese inter-State mechanism of security consultations.

The parties confirm that they will find a final solution to border disputes between the two countries, which have been inherited from the past, in the shortest possible period of time on the basis of the principles of justice and equality, mutual understanding and mutual concessions, in order to strengthen calm and stability on the Russian-Chinese border and ensure the economic interests of the population in the border areas of both countries.

The parties will continue to resolutely support each other's efforts to protect State unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, which is an important element of the Russian-Chinese partnership and strategic interaction. The Russian side confirms the unchangeability of its position of principle with regard to Taiwan and Tibet.

III

With a view to strengthening and expanding the practical basis of Russian-Chinese relations, the parties have agreed to invigorate, on a mutually advantageous basis, practical cooperation between the two States in trade, economic, military-technical, and scientific-technical spheres, in the fields of energy, transport, atomic energy, finance, outer space, aviation and information technologies as well as cross-border and interregional cooperation.

The parties highly assess the positive trends in bilateral trade and economic cooperation in recent years and state the need to expand trade, improve its structure by increasing the share of high-tech products, machinery, electronics and other goods with a high added value, and promote its balanced development; create favourable conditions for mutual access of goods, services and investments of the two countries to each other's markets; intensify technical economic and investment cooperation, including the creation of joint ventures, industrial cooperation and the transfer of technologies; perfect the trade-servicing system, including the strengthening of cooperation in the sphere of bank settlements, credit guarantees and insurance, and enhancement of the work of both countries in the field of legal and

administrative regulation of trade and economic activities in order to bring the trade regime into compliance with international standards; and strengthen cross-border and interregional cooperation, as well as contacts between small and medium-sized enterprises of the two countries. The parties are determined to make a breakthrough in the development of the entire range of bilateral trade and economic relations and to achieve a major increase in trade turnover. The parties believe that cooperation in the energy sphere is of great importance to both States. The implementation of large oil and gas projects, including the construction of the Russia-China oil pipeline, the supply of Russian natural gas to China, Russia's participation in the construction of the West-East gas pipeline with the possible supply of necessary Russian energy equipment for this project, and cooperation between the oil companies of the two countries in oil prospecting and development in Russia should serve as the basis for strengthening energy cooperation.

China states its support for the Russian Federation's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO). The parties believe that further active and constructive bilateral negotiations on the terms of Russia's admission to WTO and an appropriate agreement based on respect for mutual interests will help strengthen Russian-Chinese trade and economic relations.

IV

Since its establishment in December 2000, the Russian-Chinese Commission for Cooperation in Education, Culture, Public Health and Sports has already held three meetings, developed concrete plans to expand and deepen humanitarian cooperation between the two countries, and successfully shown its coordinating and governing role in humanitarian cooperation between the two States. The parties will continue to tap the potential of this mechanism and enhance exchange of the major cultural achievements of the two great nations.

Given the outbreak of a new illness in the world — the severe acute respiratory syndrome — the parties believe it necessary to invigorate contacts in the field of public health and medical science by using available mechanisms of cooperation.

The parties attach great significance to the joint fight of Russia and China against illegal migration and other forms of transborder crime, and to assisting cooperation in the law-enforcement field. In a follow-up to the existing agreements, the parties will create a joint Russian-Chinese working group on migration that will become operational in the very near future.

V

The Russian-Chinese Committee on Friendship, Peace and Development is a bilateral non-governmental friendship organization created at the initiative of the heads of State of the two countries. Over the six years of its existence, the committee has made a major contribution to the development of bilateral non-governmental exchanges, the deepening of understanding between the two nations and the strengthening of traditional friendship and the social framework of Russian-Chinese relations.

The holding of the fifth plenary session of the committee in Beijing will be an important event in Russian-Chinese relations this year. The parties will cooperate closely in preparing the plenary session in order to ensure its success and will make

energetic efforts to encourage contacts between young people, education and cultural figures, and businesses, and cooperation in the field of tourism.

VI

The modern world is undergoing complex and profound changes. Peace and development remain the priorities of our era, and peace-loving aspirations, hope for stability and progress are common yearnings of the peoples of all countries. However, the international situation is still unstable and some old contradictions have not been resolved over a long period of time. Traditional and unorthodox security threats are interwoven, and the logic of force and the policy of unilateral actions introduce new factors of instability in an already unstable world. International terrorism has become a global threat and a common evil.

Experience and reality show that in order to solve global problems affecting international security, stability and the future of universal development and to counter common challenges, it is necessary for all States and nations to act jointly and strengthen international cooperation.

Russia and China advocate a multi-polar, just and democratic world order based on the mutually recognized principles of international law, harmonious and rational relations, and coexistence of different States. All countries, in seeking joint prosperity, should build up their relations by respecting and taking into account their mutual interests, encouraging and developing economic ties and interaction, assisting cultural exchanges and communication, exercising mutual trust in the sphere of security and readiness to interact, and helping to develop new approaches in this field based on equality, solidarity and respect for each other's concerns. It is necessary to resolve disputes through dialogue and cooperation, strengthen and improve the system of international relations, ensure the central role of the United Nations in the modern world, and facilitate the implementation of various models of development. The trend towards a multi-polar world is overriding. At the same time, it is a difficult process that requires concerted international efforts.

The parties note a broad coincidence of interests of Russia and China in international and regional affairs. The relations of partnership and strategic interaction between the two countries are of key importance as a major factor of international relations for the future of world politics, preservation of peace and maintenance of global security and stability. The Russian-Chinese partnership, including the interaction of Russia and China within the United Nations and other multilateral forums, is making a substantial contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security. Coordination of the foreign-policy efforts of the two countries on a broad range of questions of international life, pursued on a regular basis through various channels and at different levels, makes it possible to contribute effectively to solving global and regional problems of the contemporary world.

The parties declare their readiness to continue holding consultations and interacting in international affairs, and to make tireless efforts jointly with other interested States to establish a lasting peace and stability, and to contribute to democratizing international relations.

VII

The parties stressed the urgent need to use peaceful methods of resolving disputes and crises on the basis of generally recognized principles of international law with the aim of resolving global and regional questions on a multilateral basis.

The United Nations plays an irreplaceable role in the maintenance of peace in the whole world and the fostering of concerted development. In the new situation, when unconditional compliance with the Charter of the United Nations is of exceptional importance, the parties are firmly resolved to make further efforts aimed at strengthening the United Nations system.

The parties believe that, in the area of safeguarding international peace and security, a coordinating role must be played by the United Nations, given its authority, universality and unique experience. It is necessary to make concerted efforts to build, with the United Nations playing the central role, a comprehensive system for countering new challenges and threats with a view to ensuring international stability, security and predictable development. Such a system must meet the vital interests of each State, ensure long-term socio-economic development and stability, correspond to the principle of indivisibility of international security, and be based on the norms and principles of international law, above all the Charter of the United Nations. It must have a global character, be the widest in scope, and ensure the adoption of comprehensive solutions with account being taken of the interrelation between the new threats and challenges.

VIII

Russia and China maintain a permanent dialogue on the entire subject of strategic stability. The sides are unanimous that under the conditions of the new situation in the area of international security, the comprehensive maintenance of global strategic stability, active stimulation of the process of disarmament and the strengthening of multilateral control over arms, effective prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery meet the interests of all States. The parties will continue to strengthen coordination and cooperation at all levels and contribute to building up international efforts in the above-mentioned areas. At the Conference on Disarmament, Russia and China have put forward a joint draft of the basic elements of a future international legal instrument on preventing the deployment of weapons in outer space and the use or threat of force in regard to space vehicles. The parties will continue work relating to these questions in cooperation with other States.

IX

Russia and China believe it will be necessary in the very near future to take measures to restore internal stability in Iraq. The priority task is to normalize the humanitarian situation in that country. The parties agreed to continue efforts in this direction and to provide further help to the Iraqi people.

The parties state that the crisis in Iraq must be returned to the mainstream of political settlement within the United Nations framework. The central role in the post-war reconstruction of Iraq must be assigned to the United Nations. Russia and China are convinced that the appropriate settlement of the Iraq problem — one of

the most complex in the modern world — is possible only within the framework of the United Nations, based on the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

The parties believe that it is necessary to guarantee Iraq's sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity, and to respect the will and the independent choice of the Iraqi people as well as its right to dispose of the natural resources of the country. The legitimate rights, interests and concerns of neighbouring States and other interested parties must be accommodated in the process of post-war settlement and rehabilitation in Iraq.

From the moment of the emergence of the Iraq crisis, Russia and China, together with the overwhelming majority of the countries of the world, have consistently advocated its political and diplomatic settlement, and have made vigorous efforts in this direction. This position has earned the respect and broad support of the international community.

The parties believe that the interests of the entire world community call for concerted efforts to minimize the damage done to international relations as a result of the war in Iraq. The optimum road for accomplishing the goal lies in strengthening the role of multilateral mechanisms, above all the United Nations, solving problems common to the entire world community, strengthening international anti-terrorist cooperation, and making concerted efforts to counter new threats and challenges on the firm basis of international law.

X

Russia and China attach much significance to the strengthening of security and cooperation in the Asian-Pacific region for the purposes of securing the stable and successful development of all the States situated there. The parties reaffirm their readiness to continue efforts to establish in that region a mechanism of cooperation — in keeping with regional specificities — aimed at ensuring regional stability and security as well as the expansion of interaction with other States and regional organizations.

Russia and China steadfastly proceed from the standpoint that the emergence of various bilateral and multilateral mechanisms should contribute to enhancing cooperation and agreement within that region. Such mechanisms must complement each other in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and must be based on accommodating the mutual interests and the commonality of approaches to solving regional and global problems.

The parties believe that the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is a major arena of multilateral political dialogue on matters of security in the region, and advocate its enhanced role in safeguarding regional security. The parties reaffirm their readiness to interact closely within the ARF framework.

The parties believe that the purposes and principles of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization correspond to the current trends of development and realities of the region, and its activities contribute to strengthening regional security and stability. The Moscow Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will be a milestone in the emergence of that organization as an institution and will create conditions for organizing its full-scale work from the beginning of 2004.

The parties state that the preservation of peace and stability in the Korean peninsula meets the security interests of the two countries and also the common aspirations of the international community. The scenarios of power pressure or the use of force to resolve the problems there are unacceptable.

The parties advocate the creation of a nuclear-free status for the Korean peninsula and observance there of the regime of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. At the same time, the security of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea must be guaranteed and favourable conditions must be established for its socio-economic development.

The parties believe that the key to resolving the problems of the Korean peninsula is the political will of the parties involved and the solution of the crisis by political and diplomatic means. The parties will continue close cooperation in the interests of peace, stability and development in the Korean peninsula.

27 May 2003